

**Puget Sound and Georgia Basin
Practitioners Forum
February 5 & 6, 2001**

***Smart Growth and Watershed Protection
Core Principles Identified***

Common Themes Identified

- Need to initiate versus reacting.
- Certainty yet flexibility.
- Emphasize collaborative design versus regulation.
- Involve community in meaningful ways
- Need to mimic watershed processes such as hydrology into designs.
- Need to rely on and protect natural infrastructure, such as wetlands, floodplains, riparian corridors, etc.
- Landscape analysis to set watershed and then site specific context.
- Emphasize performance over prescription.
- Lighter greener cheaper.

Key Principles Presented

Best Available Science in Growth Management Planning - (presented by Chris Parsons)

There must be a clear and documented scientific basis behind the planning decisions made. The 14 Goals of Washington State Growth Management require both balancing and integration of a broad scope of local decisions. e.g. - maintain natural resource industries

- Protect the environment
- Ensure public service
- Guide urban growth
- Reduce sprawl
- Protect property rights
- Encourage economic development

This balancing of decisions and interests and the organization of the supporting scientific basis are accomplished through development and implementation of the comprehensive local plan.

Mandatory elements of the Comprehensive Plan include:

- Land use
- Housing
- Capital facilities
- Utilities
- Transportation
- Shoreline master program

The Land Use element requires identification of:

- Distribution and general location of land uses

- Population densities, building intensities, and estimates of future population growth.
- Means for providing protection of the quality and quantity of public waters.
- Drainage, flooding, and stormwater runoff and discharge problems and provide guidance for correcting those problems with the intent of protecting the waters and resources of Puget Sound.

The Washington Growth Management also requires identification of both Critical Areas (e.g. wetlands, habitat conservation areas, floodways, unstable areas, et al) and Resource Lands of long-term significance (including forest, agricultural, and mineral lands). In designating and protecting the functions and values of these areas, counties and cities are to include the best available science, with special consideration to anadromous fish habitat.

Key Benefits of Growth Management to watershed planning

- Requires land use authorities to compile data and information to meet water resource concerns.
- Enables local government to plan for and pay for infrastructure improvements to protect surface and ground water resources.
- Provides a public process for developing and reviewing this information.

Watershed Processes (presented by Richard Gersib)

- Start assessment at the largest appropriate spatial scale
- At landscape scale, think ecosystems, not species or functions
- Nest sub-watershed assessments within a larger watershed recovery framework. Plan for restoration of watershed processes.
- Focus first on watershed processes then on structures; processes are self-maintaining - structure is not.
- Focus on the delivery and routing of water first and foremost. Other key watershed processes to account for are: routing of sediment, nutrients/pollutants, heat, woody material/ habitat.
- Understand the natural disturbance factors that drive watershed processes
- Understand differences between natural and human-caused disturbances.
- Pay particular attention to linkage between transportation planning and watershed protection designs.
- Work towards implementation and restoration as long-term objectives.

Low-Impact Development (presented by Curtis Hinman)

- Assess on-site natural features in terms of native vegetation, wetlands and streams (including ephemeral streams and swales) flood areas, buffers, etc..
- Design and implement to protect on-site natural features and hydrological systems. Maintain or restore pre-development watershed hydrological functions. Attempt to generate no measurable impact to streams.
- Maximize retention of native vegetation cover to intercept, evaporate and transpire stormwater on developed sites.
- Preserve permeable native soils on developed sites. Reduce impervious and eliminate effectively impervious surfaces. Manage stormwater as close to its source as possible.
- Minimize both the ecological and area footprints of buildings.

- Reduce or eliminate reliance on traditional stormwater conveyance technologies.

Sustainable Community Design (presented by Patrick Condon)

- Subdivision layout and building design that promote community interaction and provide connection to open space and recreation.
- Road design that promotes walking and biking as transportation alternatives (e.g. five minute walking distances).
- Developing at appropriate densities to both help meet growth management goals and to facilitate public transportation modes.
- Mixed-use neighborhoods with different dwelling types in same neighborhoods/streets.
- Interconnected street systems.
- Lighter, greener, cheaper smarter infrastructure.
- Natural drainage systems where surface runoff infiltrates back into the soil.

Achieving Meaningful Participation of First Nations and Tribes (presented by Gordon Hansen)

- Recognize and respect First Nations and Tribal governments rights to assume their place at all levels of decision making.
- Ensure that such recognition and respect is afforded First Nations and Tribes at the earliest possible stages of decision-making and the design of projects.
- Recognize that meaningful participation requires allocating resources and that such allocation receives top priority.
- Include oral and written First Nations/Tribal languages in processes that will naturally include the Elders and wisdom of benefit to all.
- Strive for openness and trust by getting to know one another, spending time with one another, and listening carefully and respectfully.
- Ensure that First Nations and Tribes develop the Terms of Reference and sign off on all studies and reports involving First Nations/Tribal subject matter to ensure accuracy.
- Understand that an ecosystem is also a First Nations/Tribal traditional territory where an indivisible spiritual relationship exists between the land, the resources, and the people.

Intergovernmental Collaboration (Presented by Erik Karlsen)

- Define reasons for intergovernmental collaboration (whereas topic, scope, benefit).
- Provide general statement of recognition of roles and responsibilities. Collaboration is not hierarchical and cannot be power based.
- Consider the various aspects and factors involved in collaborating.
 - Commitment to action with reference to jurisdictional roles, responsibilities, etc.
 - Strengths and capabilities of partners
 - Resources needed and available
 - Information sharing, etc.
 - Review process to evaluate performance and feedback findings
 - Implementation and follow through on sub-agreements
- Use collaboration as a means to develop and expand functional networks of practitioners. Use collaboration to support interdependence.